

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05566 211112Z
ACTION NODS-00

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WHITEHOUSE WASH DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 05566

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, US
SUBJECT: ATHERTON MISSION AND REVISED EGYPTIAN DRAFT
- DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

REF: (A) STATE 44137, (B) JERUSALEM 475

1. SITUATION HERE IS IN A STATE OF UTTER CONFUSION.
ALL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON CURRENT EGYPTIAN/CYPRIOT
CRISIS RESULTING FROM LARNACA INCIDENT. SADAT LEFT LAST
SUNDAY FOR ISMAILIA TO BEGIN SEVENTEEN-DAY TRIP AROUND
THE COUNTRY. HIS INTENDED TRAVEL FROM ISMAILIA MAY HAVE
BEEN SOMEWHAT DELAYED BECAUSE OF A BAD COLD WITH WHICH
HE CAME BACK FROM EUROPEAN TRIP. (HE MADE A POINT OF
TELLING ME HE GOT THE COLD IN GERMANY, NOT THE U.S.)
HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING CONTACT PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN
KAMEL TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR ME TO SEE SADAT URGENTLY,
WHEREVER HE IS, BUT KAMEL APPEARS TO BE WITH THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE DAY AND THERE IS NO ONE WITH AUTHORITY IN PRESI-
DENCY OFFICE AT THE MOMENT. VP MUBARAK HAS OR IS ABOUT
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TO LEAVE ON THREE-DAY MISSION FOR RABAT AND IS NOT AVAIL-
ABLE. FONMIN KAMEL WILL NOT RETURN FROM FRG UNTIL TOMORROW,
WEDNESDAY NIGHT. ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI, WHO RETURNED
AT 0130 THIS MORNING AFTER DIFFICULT MISSION TO CYPRUS
AND AFTER SPENDING TWO SLEEPLESS DAYS AND NIGHTS, IS
NOT AT THE OFFICE AND HAS IN ANY CASE NOT BEEN INVOLVED
IN MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON DRAFT DECLARATION OF

PRINCIPLES. THERE IS NO POINT GOING BACK TO MFA UNDERSEC
USAMA AL-BAZ.

2. IN THIS CHAOTIC SITUATION, I WILL DO BEST I CAN TO
GET TO SADAT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. (UNFORTUNATELY,
MY PBX DOES NOT WORK TO ISMAILIA.) IT IS NOT LIKELY TO
BE TODAY, HOWEVER, AND I CANNOT EVEN GUARANTEE THAT IT
WILL BE TOMORROW, SINCE I GATHER SADAT IS NOT SEEING
PEOPLE BECAUSE OF A COMBINATION OF HIS PREOCCUPATION
WITH CYPRUS PROBLEM AND HIS COLD. IF I CANNOT GET TO
SADAT BEFORE KAMEL GETS BACK TOMORROW NIGHT, ATHERTON
AND I MAY HAVE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH KAMEL ON
THURSDAY. WILL LET ADDRESSEES KNOW SOON AS I GET SOME
HARD INFORMATION.

3. SINCE ATHERTON IS NOT LIKELY HAVE FURTHER EGYPTIAN
VIEWS BY TIME HE MEETS WITH DAYAN, I CAN ONLY SUGGEST
THAT HE TRY TO FINESSE MATTER. IT MAY NOT BE A BAD IDEA
TO LET ISRAELIS KNOW, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS, THAT THERE
HAS BEEN SOME REGRESSION IN EGYPTIAN POSITION BECAUSE OF
WHAT SADAT REGARDS AS ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS ACCEPT ASWAN
LANGUAGE AND THAT WE ARE WORKING ON EGYPTIANS TO TRY TO
WORK THINGS OUT.

4. FOR ATHERTON: RE REF B, DELIGHTED SEE YOU AT ANY TIME,
BUT KAMEL IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE BACK UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT.
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HENCE, IF YOU ARRIVE EARLY, AS SUGGESTED REF B, THERE WILL
BE NO RESPONSIBLE EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL AVAILABLE WITH WHOM
SUBJECT CAN BE DISCUSSED EXCEPT USAMA AL BAZ, AND I WOULD
RECOMMEND AGAINST TAKING UP MATTER WITH HIM. EILTS

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